

Hume, James Gibson

Nov 17/10. J. G. H. 15

The department of Philosophy in the University of Toronto includes History of Philosophy and Metaphysics, Logic and Psychology in the University and Ethics in University College and the Federated Colleges Victoria and Trinity. St. Michael's College includes all the above subjects. It has a separate course of lectures and examinations but an effort is made to arrive at a certain degree of uniformity in the Curriculum.

Under Professor George Paxton Young the department was entitled "Mental and Moral Science and Civil Polity. (In Civil Polity no lectures were given but Blake Scholarships were offered on the result of examinations on the prescribed course of reading. The Civil Polity afterwards widened into and became the separate department of Political Science.)

When the Universities were federated in 1887 provision was made for the teaching of History of Philosophy, Logic and Metaphysics in the University, Ethics was made a College subject.

On the death of Professor Young in 1889 two successors were concurrently appointed, Professor Hume more nearly continuing the work of Professor Young under the title of Professor of History of Philosophy in the University and of Ethics in University College.

Professor Baldwin who desired to confine himself to Psychology was given the somewhat misleading title of Professor of Logic and Metaphysics. The term Metaphysics had been employed according to a Scottish usage to designate a course in general psychology and theory of knowledge and evidently those who employed the term Logic and Metaphysics had in mind Logic and Psychology. When Dr. Baldwin resigned in 1893, the department of Philosophy which had been subdivided became reunited with Professor Hume as Head of the whole department.

The Psychological Laboratory

Although the term Psychology was not used by Professor Young and Professor Baldwin never had the term psychology in his official title yet psychology was taught by Professor Young and also by Professor Baldwin.

Professor Young had furthermore formed plans for the extension of the work in general psychology (misnamed metaphysics) by the addition or inclusion of the so-called "new" "physiological" or "experimental" psychology as it was variously named.

With the view of such extensions in Psychology Professor Young advised his pupil, H. Hume Gold Medallist in Mental & Moral Science and Poetry and Classics, to qualify himself to take charge of the new branch in psychology and on this advice Mr Hume went to study under Professor G. Stanley Hall and Dr Donaldson both of them specialists in the "new" psychology in Johns Hopkins University and the succeeding year under Professor James at Harvard.

When Professor Young died in 1889 and one of his successors Dr Baldwin expressed a decided preference for psychology and a corresponding dislike for the other parts of the philosophical department he was given the title of Logic and Metaphysics with the intention of allowing him to specialize in Psychology (metaphysics!).

He found everything ready for the equipping of a laboratory the appropriation of funds for this purpose was supported by the President (Sir) Daniel Wilson, by Dr James London who did so much to establish other laboratories and by Chancellor N. Birnbeck trained in Science as well as in theology. Though the term psychology became introduced into the Calendar and an assistant in the Psychological Laboratory was so designated, it was some time before there was an official recognition of the term Psychology. In 92-93 Dr Kischmann who had acted as an assistant in Wundt's laboratory in Leipzig was made successor to Mr Sijeworth, the first

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Assistant in the psychological laboratory, he did not
come at once having started on a trip to South America.
In the meantime very great changes took place.
Dr Baldwin resigned to go to Princeton. A lecturer
Dr Donald Mackay was appointed to succeed
him - Dr Mackay was ill at the time and died
shortly after his appointment never having
taken up the duties of his office. - When
Dr Kischmann arrived it turned out that he
was quite unable to take charge of any of the
lecture courses - a temporary lecturer was
appointed. Some time later Dr Kischmann
received the title of Director of the Psychological
Laboratory -

November 12th, 1914

Professor J. G. Hume,

University of Toronto.

Dear Professor Hume:

I regret very much that I find as I have now done for the first time that in the Year Book of the Universities your position and that of the Department of Philosophy have been so seriously misstated. I find also that in one or two other departments similar errors have been stated owing to some method of the Secretaries apparently. I have just written to the Editor of the Year Book asking him to remedy these mistakes in the forthcoming issue.

Yours sincerely,

President.

June 23rd 1915. 48

President R A Falconer

Dear Sir:-

There are some matters concerning the policy of the department of Philosophy regarding which I should like to consult you:

1. In the third and fourth year courses in the reading of philosophical texts in German are given. This year I took these over. Next year some provision will need to be made for these courses.

2. Previously books for the departmental library in Psychology were paid for out of the fund for maintenance of the Laboratory. This was in some respects an unsatisfactory method and has been discontinued - but it puts a double burden on the grant for Library purposes for the department of Philosophy.

3. When Mr Joseph Allen resigned as expert assistant in the laboratory some changes were made which need to be noted.

The amount paid in salary to Mr Allen was added to an allowance for maintaining Equipment apparatus and supplies and this was utilized to pay for two Fellows.

At first there were appointed from the best men of the graduating class irrespective of any special aptitudes for Psychology - now the tendency is to consider chiefly aptitude for laboratory work.

With the disappearance of the expert assistant and the changing of the fund for apparatus the tendency is to curtail advanced experiments and substitute courses in History of Psychology and Psychology of Religion.

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. The question of whether Psychology should be made into a separate department - or remain like Ethics a part of the group. ?

The amount of cooperation between the philosophical department and the new department of Social Service. ?

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Yours Very Sincerely

J. Gibson Hume

June 29th 1895

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Dear Sir,-

As the Assistants recently nominated for appointment in Philosophy for 1915-16 will be chiefly employed in the psychological laboratory but should also be available to a certain extent if required to assist in reading exercises in other sections, as for instance ⁱⁿ Logic, it would seem to be advisable to have their titles in

Philosophy and Psychology

giving them whatever designation ,assistant,instructor or dem-
onstrator,as is in accordance with the usage in other depart-
ments.

Last year the titles of Mr Liddy and Mr Pratt were changed. Previously they were in Philosophy. Last spring they were put altogether in ^{one} ~~the~~ sub-division of Philosophy viz Psychology.

In the future I believe it would be wise to make these appointments for excellence and standing in the whole work of the whole department, This was done when Mr Liddy and Mr Pratt were appointed in the first place as Fellows in Philosophy. This did not preclude their being mainly or altogether employed in any subdivision where they were most needed, But as these are valuable prizes they should not all be awarded to one section and simply for special fitness for the work of any one section, In order to preclude criticism, too, these positions should be applied for openly up to a certain date as is the case in the awarding of the Young Fellowship.

These Assistants are presumably not merely assisting members

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of the Staff. They should be doing graduate work leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and in their appointment the fact that they will be trained to become teachers should also be kept in mind. Hence they should not be so employed as to restrict their work to one section if ~~in~~ their training for the degree to which they aspire and their future as possible teachers requires a wider training and opportunity to take advantage of graduate work done in other sections.

There is also another question needing very thoughtful consideration and consultation with the theological colleges. Now that we are seriously taking up the extension of graduate studies and the providing of more graduate instruction in Philosophy, the extent to which this may be combined with the course in theology should be decided by the authorities and not left to the student himself or ^{settled} by the student in consultation with any one section,

Perhaps it might prevent some misunderstanding if the Assistant^s appointed this year were officially informed that in the arrangement of their programme of work and study they should be subject to the control of the Head of the department of Philosophy. In all such matters in Philosophy the Head of the department has always consulted the whole staff.

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Yours Very Sincerely

James Gibson Hunter

